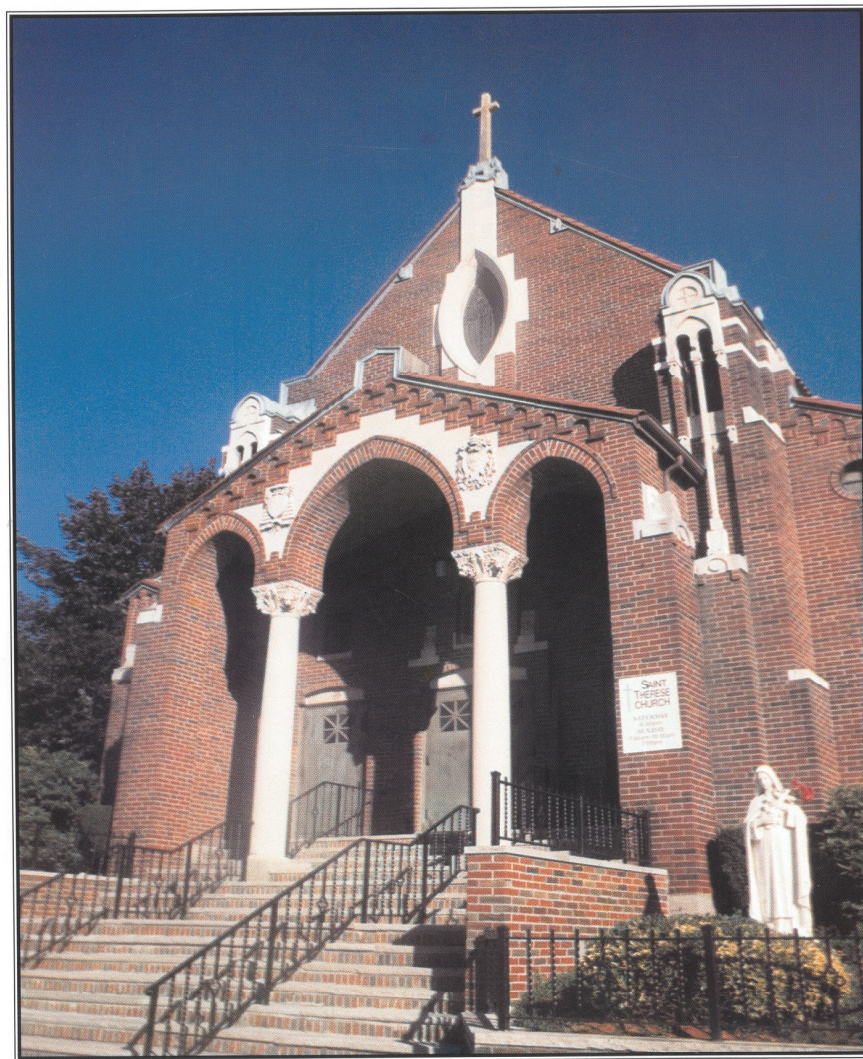


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Saint Therese Church
Everett, Massachusetts
Seventy-fifth Anniversary
October 26, 2002





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September 19, 2002

The Reverend Richard McLaughlin
St. Therese Parish
20 Gledhill Avenue
Everett, MA 02149

Dear Father McLaughlin:

It is a great pleasure to extend to you and all of the faithful of St. Therese Parish my prayerful best wishes on the occasion of your 75th anniversary.

The faith has taken deep root and has matured among generations of Catholics in Everett through the lives and sacrifices of so many dedicated persons associated with St. Therese Parish. The parish in so many ways is the heart of the religious lives of the faithful. Centered around the celebration of the Eucharist and nourished by the preaching of the Word of God and celebration of the sacraments, the faith of the people has been strengthened and their lives enriched. What a beautiful testimony to the goodness of God is the life of this parish!

As I thank you for the good work which you have accomplished at St. Therese, it is my prayer that all the members of the parish may rededicate themselves to the Lord. May the vitality of spirit and spiritual growth of the parish's life continue to be strengthened through the Lord's favor. I pray in a special way that the young people of the parish might be moved by the celebration of this anniversary to consider what role God expects them to fulfill in the Church.

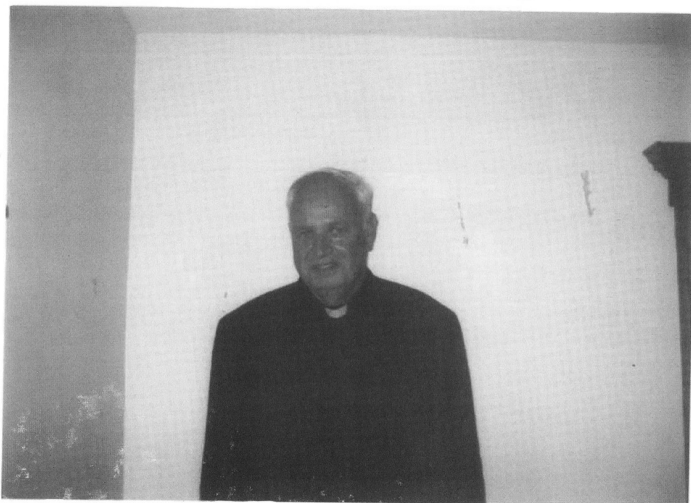
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Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Boston

LOCAL HISTORY
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2002

Pastor of Saint Therese Church:
Reverend Richard P. McLaughlin



Seventy-fifth Anniversary Committee:
Joan Shepard, Kevin Creel,
Margaret DeVita, John Troy.



A Brief History of St. Therese Parish

"I place this Parish under the protection of the Little Flower, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, with every confidence in her powerful intercession" declared Reverend Father Frederick Allchin on New Year's morning in 1928 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Glendale Square, Everett. With these words, the first pastor celebrated the first Mass of our parish. Later, owners of the Rialto Theatre volunteered the use of their movie house on Sundays free of charge including lighting and piano. The movie stage became an altar and with the music of a violin the parishioners sang hymns that ennobled their worship.

Shortly thereafter, Father Allchin rented space at 75 Sycamore Street where he celebrated Mass and officiated at baptisms, the first marriage, and the first funeral. The telephone number at this makeshift rectory was Everett 0412, which remains the same today. On July 29, 1928, the excavation was dug for Saint Therese Church designed by Architect Matthew Sullivan. The people of the parish conducted fundraisers and successfully paid eighteen thousand dollars on the building alone. At a time when movie admission cost a dime and hamburger cost fifteen cents a pound, parishioners labored to raise the second payment of twelve thousand dollars.

On Palm Sunday, March 24, 1929, hundreds of Catholics from the Greater Boston area filled pews at four Masses in the new St. Therese Church in Glendale Heights. The main altar was of India limestone; two side altars were individual shrines: one to the Mother of God, the other to the Patroness, Saint Therese. In each of these was a statue carved from Carrara marble. In April 1929, the Cardinal assigned as curate Reverend Father Clarence A. Macksey who remained at Saint Therese until 1943. Father Macksey endeared himself to the parishioners and became an integral part of the parish history. In a recent interview, Noel Dunn remembered the early days: "I was one of the first altar boys in 1929 with Joe O'Hearn, Tom Crowley, John Fitzgerald, Tom Curtin, and Eugene Harrington. Austin McHugh donated the holy water fonts. People attended whist parties in the hall, now the chapel, to raise funds."

In the last months of 1929, an ominous change took place over the entire nation. Father Allchin warned the people, "This winter promises to be a hard one on the poor and we wish to be ready to cope with the situation." He established the Saint Vincent de Paul Conference to conduct a regular campaign of assistance. During the dark days of the Depression, people sought simple, pleasant diversions revolving around the Church. Our Lady's Sodality, the Holy Name Society, a children's choir, and the May Procession enhanced parishioners' religious and social lives.

The steady expansion of the parish required help with the growing Sunday school enrollment. Father Macksey added to his staff Sisters of Saint Joseph who came to Everett each Sunday from Newton. In addition, a new rectory was purchased at 20 Gledhill Avenue to provide quarters for the priests. The renovation to the interior of the church was significant. The addition of the glass wall between the sanctuary and Saint Joseph's Chapel enabled those in the chapel to participate at the celebration of the Mass. Father Joseph Curtin served from 1932 to 1943.

During the 1940's, Father John M. Donelin (1940 to 1950) and Father Peter T. Linehan (1943 to 1956) established the Boys and Girls Clubs affiliated with the Diocesan Catholic Youth Organization. These clubs, including Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, effectively met the spiritual and social development of the youth whose home lives were affected and disrupted by World War II. While the war in Europe worsened and that in the Pacific intensified, the parish sorrowfully prayed for its casualties. From the pulpit came the names of those killed or missing in action. By the time the war ended, Saint Therese Parish lost eleven of its young men. In their memory a Liturgical Tabernacle was

Installed in Saint Joseph's Altar in the Chapel where the Pastor offered a special Mass of Requiem. Father Cornelius Murray served from 1943 to 1949.

As the new decade of the fifties dawned, parishioners erected a stone grotto to Our Lady of Grace in memory of Father Macksey. During the Jubilee Holy Year of 1951, Father Linehan led a pilgrimage to the four Catholic churches of Everett. The parish faithful attended weekly lectures on pertinent Catholic topics and participated in daily public recitations of the Rosary. Father Linehan, who spearheaded a building fund campaign in 1952, is credited during his pastorate with the acquisition of more land, greater expansion, and increased activities. Father John Sculley served our parish from 1949 to 1953.

Father Joseph T. Alves arrived at St. Therese in 1953. In a recent interview, he recalled his happy experience in Everett: "The people were comfortably integrated in several ethnic groups. They were warm, willing to participate, and inspiring." He was surprised, however, when he was assigned to officiate at ten to twenty funerals a day at Holy Cross Cemetery. In 1956, Archbishop Cushing called upon Father Alves to complete his doctorate in psychiatric social work at Catholic University. For the next thirty years, Monsignor Alves established and directed the Family Counseling and Guidance Center in Boston to counter the rising incidents of family breakdowns, delinquency, and substance abuse.

In 1956, Father Charles H. Hyland began his distinguished tenure at St. Therese Parish. Under his supervision, the church brightened up with a complete interior decoration. Recognizing the need for a parish center, he directed the construction of a parish hall dedicated in May of 1965. This building remains the center of activities for parishioners of all ages: religious education classes, parish meetings, social gatherings, dances, and Bingo. Father Daniel Sullivan served from 1952 to 1960.

Father Maynard Malone (1960 to 1962) served as spiritual director of the Catholic Youth Organization whose mission was to have young adults build wholesome friendships and do charitable work in the parish. Dottie Dunbrack Foresteire, a C. Y.O. officer, remembering the youthful energy of Chuck Olsen, Connie Cooper, and Linda Grasso, said, "We delivered food baskets and toys to needy families at Christmas time; we helped with clothing and paper drives; we attended weekend retreats; and we participated in sports and dances." In another church youth group, Girl Scout leaders promoted community service and respect for others. Peg Cunningham, Mary Finn, Janet Deery, Gertrude Jordan, and Christine Tavano influenced a generation of girls "to do a good turn daily" and "to do my duty to God and country." Scouts marched from Sunday Mass to Lafayette School for their annual communion breakfast.

Newly ordained Father Paul Tivnan served at St. Therese Parish from 1963 to 1968. He remembered the kindness of Father Francis O'Neill (1956 to 1965), the brilliant preaching of Father Robert McCabe (1965 to 1970), and the wit, of Father Joseph Locigno (1963 to 1966). He recollected working on parish activities with Ron Murphy, Peg Morrissey, Bill Perkins, Mary Saia, and Maryanne Mandolesse. Father Tivnan recalled the uplifting music performed by choirs under the direction of Mary Bertolami. In a recent interview he said, "I have fond memories of my first ministry in Everett where the people were most cordial. I was kept very busy with hospital visits, burials, Sodality, Little Flower Drill Team, and C.Y.O."

In October 1968, parishioners were pleased to receive word that Reverend Father Hyland was elevated to the rank of Monsignor. They happily gathered at a testimonial dinner in his honor at the Chateau de Ville; coincidentally, they gladly celebrated the 40th anniversary of the parish.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, influenced by Pope John XXIII and the Vatican Council, the Catholic Church continued a transformation. "Aggiornamento" marked a process of modernizing ritual and policy. St. Therese Church adapted to changes- the priest faced the congregation; he said Mass in the vernacular, the pastor removed altar rails-, lectors and lay eucharistic ministers assisted at Mass. Parishioners delightedly flocked to the new Saturday 4:30 Mass. Guiding us through those changes was Father Thomas C. Foley who also acted as spiritual advisor of the Holy Name Society. These parish gentlemen attended Sunday Mass in a body twice a month. They raised money for the church, sponsored a notable speakers program, and organized social and spiritual activities.

Religious education is a matter of paramount importance in our parish. For many years, Joan Shepard and Ann Marie Barry have taught and coordinated religious education to children from primary grades through grade ten to prepare youngsters to receive sacraments. The charisma, devotion, and leadership of Sister Catherine McGarry, C.S.J. enhanced the success of our parish school of religion. Under staff tutelage, younger children study prayers and basic teachings before First Holy Communion. Older children participate in apostolic work and explore such contemporary topics as "Called to Truth and Justice," "Finding the Sacred," "Power of Moral Life," "Responsible Behavior," "Making Moral Decisions," "The Informed Conscience," and "Key to Happiness." According to Ann Marie Barry, "Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teachers from many walks of life and levels of learning share their faith.

At Confirmation time, each student receives a Bible, he or she understands that actions manifest one's faith."

The Sodality of St. Therese came together for the first time in October of 1929. It gave the women of St. Therese parish an opportunity to share in their spiritual devotion to God and the Blessed Mother. As they came to befriend one another, the organization grew into a social community committed to the spiritual enrichment of its members. Since its inception, the efforts and often-unrelenting tasks of many has enabled the Sodality to grow and become a very successful and happy organization. The rewarding experiences realized by members will remain in their hearts forever.

Over the years, Sodalists have and continue to enjoy many spiritual benefits in their behalf; i.e. Masses, Rosary and Benedictions, Retreats, Days of Recollection and the traditional May Crowning. In addition, the Sodality community extends support to members confined to their homes as well as nursing homes with visits that include support in times of need such as sickness and death, gifts of plants at Christmas time, clothing drives, food for the hungry, etc.

The Sodality's efforts to support the Church include sponsoring annual fund raisers; a "Holiday Craft Fair and Flea Market", and a "Ham & Bean Supper", which by the way, include the husbands of members to do the cooking and serving, not to mention all the manual work involved. Support is also extended to organizations at Christmastime. Examples of these outreach efforts include a program for troubled youth, namely "Bridge Over Troubled Waters", and the "St. Vincent DePaul Society".

A popular benefit is the social aspect of their membership. Because they are human and enjoy life and laughter, social events have included guest speakers, hypnotists, hand writing analysts, artists, singers, etc. Members have enjoyed banquets, mystery rides, the Pops, nights at the races, stage plays and more. In 1976, the year of the bicentennial, our parish organist and socialist, Dot Rogers, a talented woman who truly loved the entertainment industry, had aspirations of saluting our patriotism by organizing and presenting a musical tribute. It was a huge success. And it was the beginning of what probably is the largest social highlight of the Sodality, namely, "The Merry Makers".

According to Peggy Connolly, a long time sodalist, beginning in 1976 and during the late 70's and most of the 80's, the "Merry Makers" regaled audiences with their musical presentations. The cast, made up of sodality members, discovered their "hidden talents" and shared them with all. The music director Dot Rogers, choreographer Dottie Mackey, and director/coordinator Peggy Connolly, a talented soloist herself, took on a new roll in Sodality life, producing! Some of the shows produced included "Minstrel" (our best), "Gay Nineties", "Hillbillies", and "Calendar Show". Besides having loads of fun, the cast enjoyed being recognized by outsiders with requests for performances for organizations such as the retirement home of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Framingham, women's social clubs, nursing homes, and hospitals.

At Christmas time, the "Merry Makers" were the featured entertainment for the Sodality's Christmas parties. Entertainment included singing and dancing routines to favorite Christmas songs/carols. Featured were the popular routine of the "March of the Wooden Soldiers" and the hilarious "12 Days of Christmas". The Merry Makers' best Christmas performance was their live Nativity Pageant - enjoyed and loved by all.

Today's leadership board, Ann Marie Barry, Mary Bonner, Rita Diamond, Marie Kazmierczak, Sheila Kenney, Kay McCarthy, Pauline Timmons and Lori Whelan, advocate on the membership's behalf to remain committed to the Sodality's threefold mission: a deep devotion to our Blessed Mother; the spiritual enrichment of its members and the enjoyment of life that God has given us.

Monsignor William J. Forster came to Everett in 1975 to assist Monsignor Hyland. In a recent conversation, Monsignor Forster said, "St. Therese people are like the mustard seed in the parable, for they are loyal, patient, and steadfast. I felt humbled to be in their presence, especially the morning Mass group in the chapel." In his 1994 Vision of St. Therese Parish, Monsignor Forster noted that "Our parishioners are a close-knit community of faith who look to God's word for comfort. Their assembly as Christians is a shared celebration of the Good News of brotherhood and reconciliation. Their presence is a personal act and not the result of mere habit, custom, or law."

Monsignor Forster provided strong and compassionate support for the Alcoholics Anonymous program; moreover, his heartfelt love for the poor was evident through his low-key, magnanimous work with our St. Vincent de Paul conference. Father Roger Cormier, who served for 20 years, and Father Joseph Stack, a native of Everett, provided personal, spiritual, and sacramental support. The eighties and nineties reflected a period of peace and stability.

As Cardinal Law pointed out in his post-visitation letter of 1989, "There is a strong sense of commitment at the heart of parish life. Parishioners accept responsibility for their parish and respond with generous hearts to its needs."

Over the years, a trusted trio of Sacristans has maintained the altar, laundered linens, arranged vestments, tended flowers, and protected sacred objects in the sacristy. With strict attention to detail, Mary A. Dunlea set the standard in the early years. Anna Palmer (1960s and '70s) and Anna Barry (1962 to present) were dutiful and constant in a parish where people show zeal for the sacraments.

A dependable, dedicated team of ushers has assisted our priests. According to usher Frederick Foresteire, "Our duties include greeting the faithful at weekend Masses, handing out bulletins, answering questions, solving problems, collecting and safeguarding Offertory donations, and guiding rows of people to Communion." Current ushers include Fred Agnetta, Giro (Chick) Anzalone, John Berghello, Joe Boress, Joseph Capachietti, Ronald Catalano, Kevin Creel, Jim Delorey, Noel Dunn, Arthur Fusco, Ann Goudey, Fred MacKay, Ted O'Donnell, Frank Petricca, Joe Spayne, Fred Tavano, Joseph Travia, Charles Tumas, Richard Varga, Gloria Young and Dan Petricca.

A loyal employee who has labored behind the scenes and has kept a watchful eye for 23 years is custodian Italo Baiocchi whom Monsignor Forster nicknamed "By." He succeeded custodians Rocco Pini and Donald Cameron. Unsung heroes who gave generously of their time and skills over the past years to support Bingo and parish hall events include John Barry, Charlie Campbell, Ray Dorney, Gene McCarthy, Jim McPhee, John Troy, and Dick Ward.

The life of the Parish is further enhanced by its band of lectors and eucharistic ministers. Their service is loyal, devoted, and invaluable. The daily recitation of the rosary by the morning Mass group begins the day with prayer. The Wednesday evening prayer group ponders the richness and depth of God's Word.

In September Of 2000, Reverend Richard P. McLaughlin, former pastor of St. Joseph/St. Lazarus in East Boston, returned from a spring sabbatical of study and renewal in Rome and began a new assignment at St. Therese Church. Under his guidance, parish leaders started planning events, a blend of temporal and spiritual activities, to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of our parish.

On February 24th, 2002, parishioners sat enraptured by the pure, stirring voices of State Trooper Dan Clark and his wife Mary Colarusso at a Sunday afternoon performance of operatic, traditional, and patriotic music. The new sound system on the altar enhanced the renditions of these gifted singers. Parish members captured Irish spirit with the wearing of the green at a St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner followed by dancing at the Hilltop in Saugus on Friday evening, March 15th. On a relaxing June cruise to Bermuda, parishioners greeted summer and basked in sunshine.

On September 29th, 30th, and October 1st, which is the feast day of Saint Therese, Father McLaughlin led the faithful in a Triduum, three days of prayer and reflection. On Saturday evening, October 26th, families and friends joyfully reunited at the Bon Saison in celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary. A committee comprised of Kevin Creel, Margaret DeVita, Joan Shepard, and John Troy organized this culminating event. Participants felt closely and historically linked to the rich legacy of the founding parishioners of Glendale Heights in 1927. "The priests and the people, blessed with the patronage of the Saint of Lisieux, have remembered and are fulfilling the promises of the parish made on that first Sunday morning long ago to work in Everett for the glory of God and the sanctification of souls."

Acknowledgments:

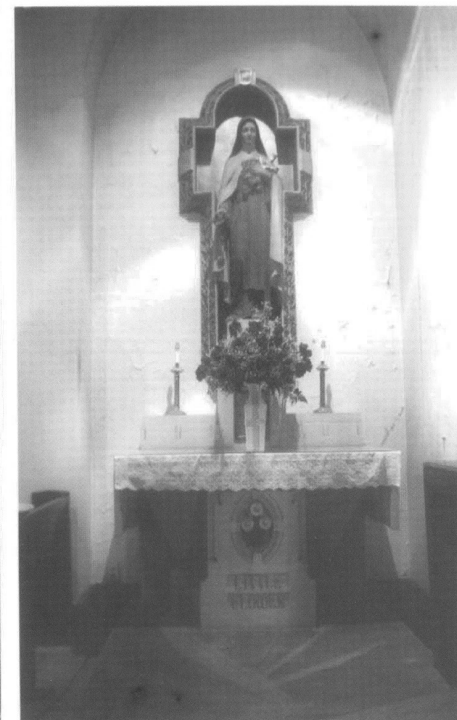
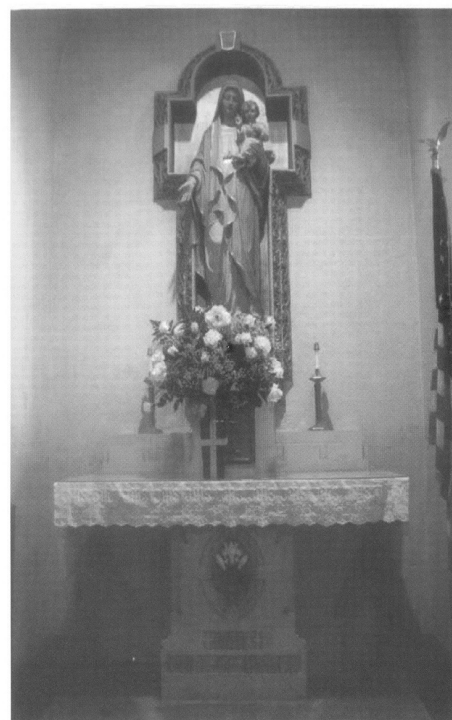
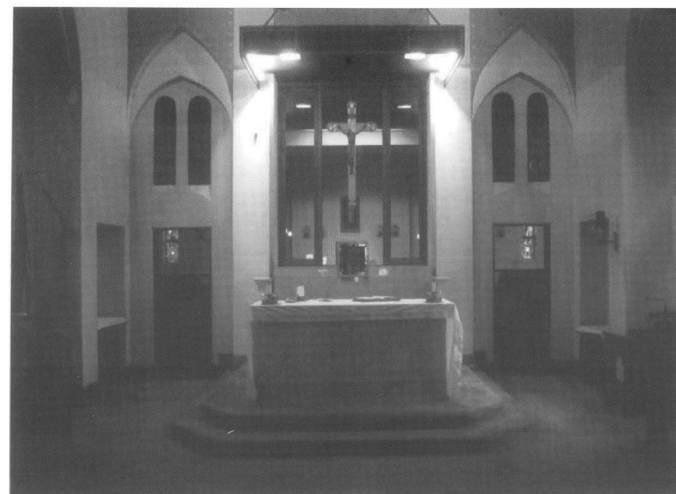
Excerpts borrowed from Helen Curley's original History of St. Therese Parish. Material borrowed from 1971 reunion booklet.

Parish history compiled by Patricia M. Chisholm assisted by Marilyn R. Shaw. Current photography by Patricia M. Chisholm.

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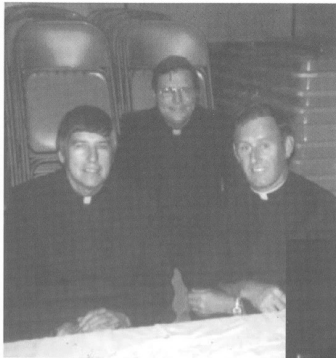
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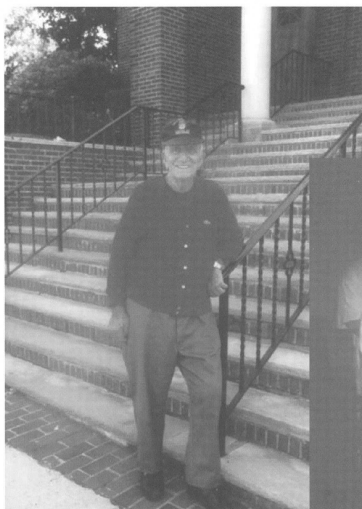
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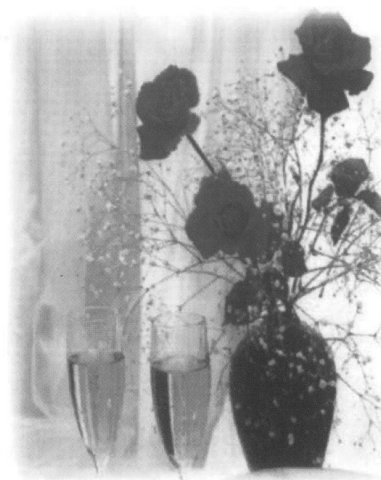
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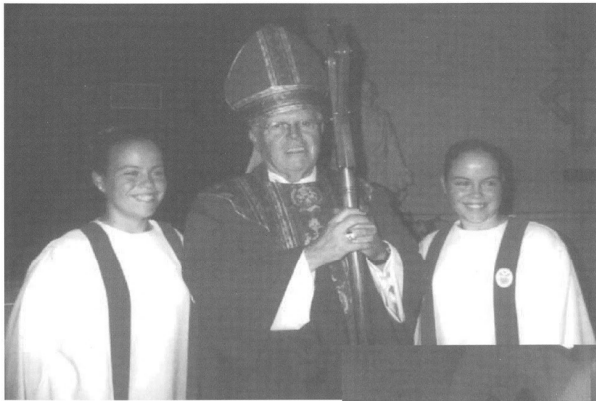


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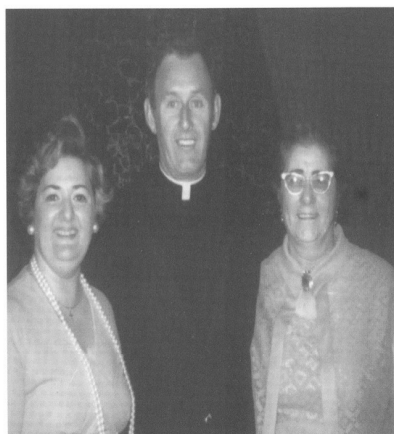
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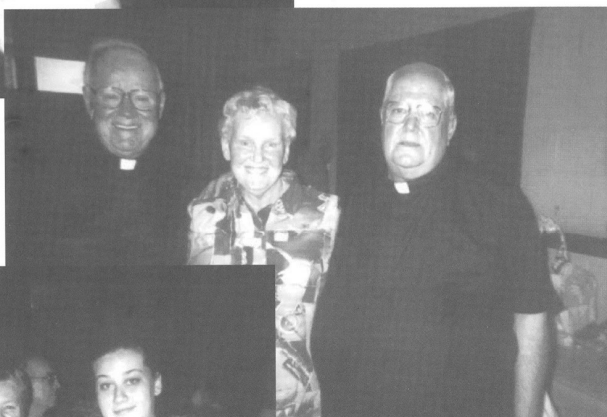
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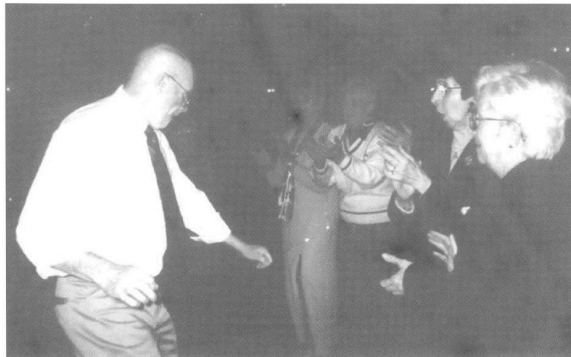
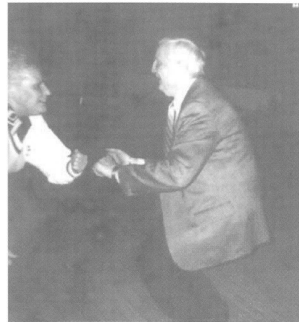
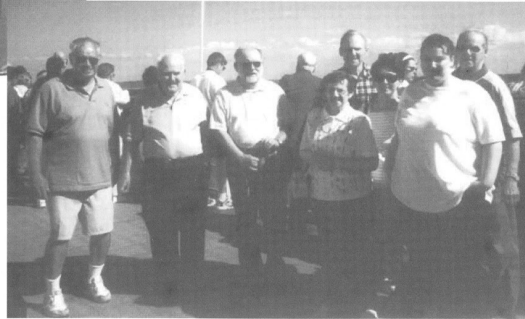
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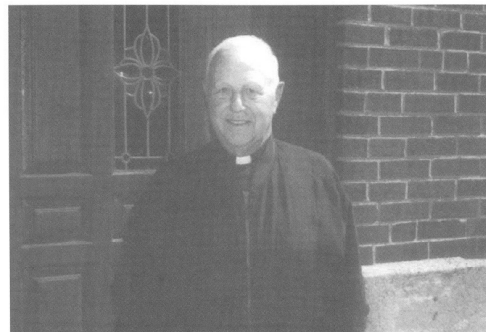
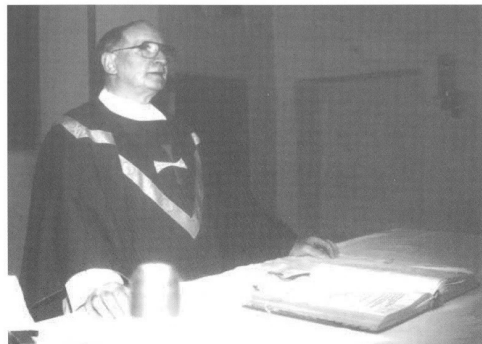
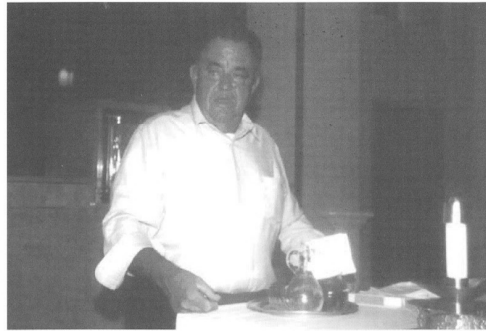
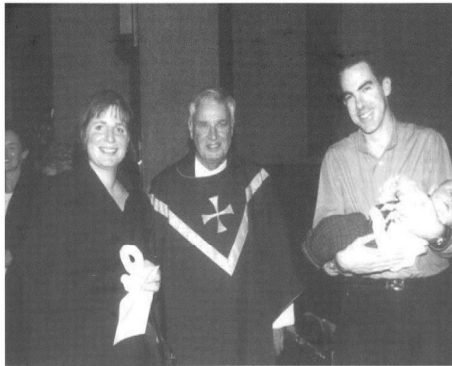
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